

Cattlemen say animal rights groups make life on range tough

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Radical animal rights' groups are making life tough on the range for cattle ranchers.

Incidents of "eco-terrorism" by radical animal rights activists directed against cattle ranchers have risen dramatically in the past year,

according to a lobbyist for the National Cattlemen's Association.

"The openness of these groups is appalling," Kathleen Hartnett said in a speech to the NCA convention in Boise. "It is time for us to act."

Hartnett referred to acts of vandalism and violence claimed by

animal rights groups such as Animal Liberation Front and Earth First! She cited the example of a brick and an unlit Molotov cocktail thrown through a window of the California Cattle Association's office in May.

Pam Neal, executive vice presi-

dent of the Arizona Cattle Association, recounted the story of a death threat she received on her answering machine after she spoke out against an Arizona wilderness bill.

"The message said, 'You're gonna get shot, that's all I have to say,'" she said. "It changed things

for me. I started carrying a .38 in my purse."

Hartnett urged cattle ranchers to report all incidents of vandalism and theft, and to take steps to tighten security on their farms. She cautioned them not to respond physically to the activists. "Leave

that to the police and the courts," she said.

Hartnett also mentioned that ranchers should be wary of mainstream groups such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which has on some occasions paid ALF's legal fees.

Cattlemen
18 Nov 1955

Livestock Marketing Featured On Radio

SALT LAKE CITY — Livestock marketing and feeding problems are featured in a series of three special November programs on "This Business of Farming." The series is in line with the desire of the Utah Copper Division of Kennecott Copper Corp., program sponsor, to help Utah stockmen with the perplexing marketing problems confronting them.

Marketing and merchandising angles of hog raising will be treated Monday, November 21, while Thursday, November 24, farm director Von Orme will present a discussion on feeding for quick cattle and sheep gains. Don E. Kenny reports the month's livestock situation on Monday, November 28. The program is heard weekdays at 12:15 p.m. on KSL Radio.

Cattlemen pay \$99,150 for 50 bulls

12-1-89
Cattlemen from Utah and surrounding states paid a record \$99,150 Wednesday night for 50 of the finest bulls in the Mountain West during the seventh annual All Breeds Bull Sale sponsored by the Utah Cattlemen's Association.

More than 500 people attended the auction, held at the livestock sales barn at the Utah State Fairpark. The event brought the highest proceeds in the past seven years, according to Michael Sibbett, executive vice president of the cattlemen's association.

"The highest price paid for a single bull at the auction was \$4,000, paid by the Kunzler Ranch in Park Valley, Box Elder County, for a Hereford bull belonging to the R.C. Cattle Co., Logan," Sibbett said.

Park Valley cattleman Gary Rose, president of the cattlemen's association, said the auction results "indicate a high degree of optimism among area cattlemen."

"They are looking ahead to better years and to improving their herds for the future. The animals being sold at the All Breeds Bull Sale are getting better and better every year, too. The auction is becoming one of the finest in the West," Rose said.

The Mountain West's first newspaper

DESERET NEWS

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In our opinion

Richard B. Laney, editorial page editor, 237-2186

Don't boost grazing fees to drive ranchers off land

Once again, Congress is taking up a proposal to increase grazing fees on public land by 500 percent by 1996 — a move that would surely put most Utah ranchers who use public land out of business within a short time. A similar measure was passed by the House of Representatives last year but got no further.

The arguments for raising the fees from slightly less than \$2 per animal per month to some \$8.70 usually involve elimination of a federally-subsidized "bargain" for livestock owners, the generation of more income to care for public range lands, and even a desire on the part of some environmentalists to simply remove sheep and cattle from public lands.

Farmers and ranchers in the Western states who use public lands say their operations are only marginally profitable and a five-fold boost in some of their operating costs would bankrupt them. Even a highly prosperous business would have trouble with a 500 percent increase in costs.

And if the idea is to generate more money, raising fees to the point that they put ranchers out of business would result in less grazing-fee income, not more. One cannot get more milk by killing the cow.

Particularly irritating is the fact that efforts to hike range fees normally are made by people who function in a different environment from the arid West with its preponderance of federally-owned land. For example, the fee-hike proposal is offered by Rep. Mike Synar of Oklahoma, a state with no public lands.

Backers of the fee increase say

public land grazing ought to be comparable to grazing fees charged by private land owners and that any difference amounts to a federal "subsidy" for ranchers.

Yet this view ignores the fact that public land users have many other costs associated with that use besides the grazing fee. Ranchers must also take care of herding, fencing, water improvements and salting on the public lands they use.

The argument can be made that grazing fees on public lands have been at the same relatively low level for many years and should be raised. And some modest boost probably could be defended — but 500 percent hike? A federal formula already exists that makes yearly adjustments. It takes into account beef prices and private grazing land fees. Based on this formula, the grazing fee will be raised 16 cents to \$1.97 on March 1.

There are those who acknowledge that a massive fee hike might drive public land ranchers out of business, but say such ranchers make up only 7 percent of livestock producers in 16 Western states. The fact that they are a minority does not justify putting them out of business.

Ranching on public lands in the dry, far-flung West is not highly profitable. Competition from large feed lots and private holdings is serious. In fact, there are shrinking numbers of such livestock producers.

If ranchers can't make it in the normal course of events, so be it. But let's not deliberately give them a push out of the industry — and call it an act of "fairness."

28 Jan 1991



UPI photo

... by the horns

17 Feb 1991
Texan brothers, John and Ralph Fisher, from left, ride Longhorn bulls "Cactus" and "Tumbleweed" while Sandra Holland rides a Brahman

named "Chance" in the parade for the 59th annual Livestock Show and Rodeo, which runs two weeks at the Astrodome in downtown Houston.

Orton Defends Grazing Rights

Congressman Bill Orton (D-Ut.) last week argued against a measure approved by the House that would have raised grazing fees nearly 500 percent over four years.

The congressman defended ranchers' and woolgrowers' grazing rights on federal lands before the House Subcommittee on National Parks and public Lands, March 12, amidst renewed calls to raise grazing fees. He spoke in support of legislation before the subcommittee which would write into law the current formula for determining grazing fees. Critics have charged that the 500 percent increase would put many livestock producers out of business.

Backers of the increase claim ranchers and woolgrowers pay less

to graze their livestock on public lands than they would pay on private ranges. But Orton pointed out that costs for herding and animal losses are usually much higher on public lands than on private property.

"To say that all AUMs (animal unit months) are equal in value because they all feed one cow for one month is the equivalent of saying that all houses should be sold at equal prices because they all keep the rain off your head," said Orton.

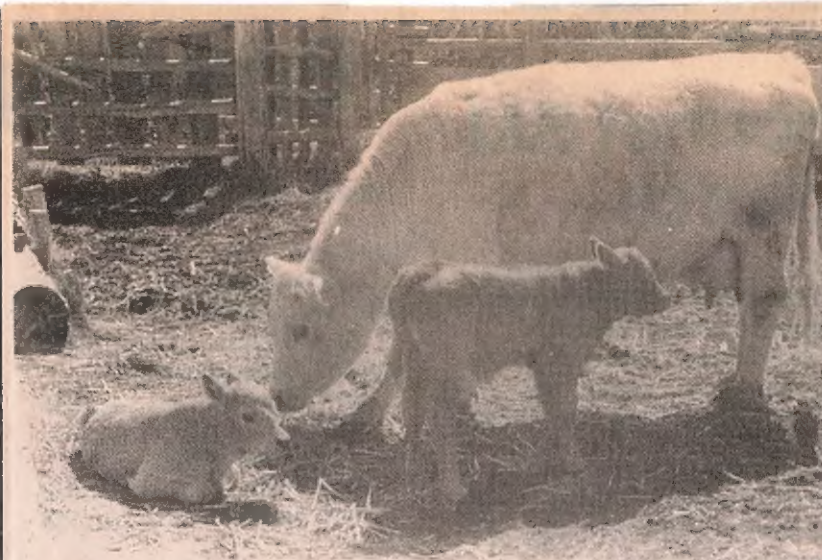
"The point is, there are usually vast differences in what is required of a livestock producer using a federal AUM and what is provided at no additional cost to a producer who pays a little more for a private

AUM." 3-27-91

Orton maintains the current formula is fair, "and to change it now would be to break faith with the many ranchers and woolgrowers who depend on these grazing rights for their livelihood." Many cattle ranchers and woolgrowers in Wasatch County graze their livestock on public land.

"The economic vitality of every community in rural Utah is directly affected by the issue which you are considering today," Orton told the panel. "Agriculture is vital to these communities and grazing is vital to the agricultural economy."

He expressed optimism the current formula will remain in place and vowed to oppose any increase in grazing fees on the House floor.



Twin's Two Years in a Row

This is the second year in a row that Jim and Nellie Thompson's holstein, Murray Gray, Charolais cow, has given birth to twin calves. Last year, the mother cow gave birth to twin heifers. This year she again kept her record of twins and gave birth to two bull calves. Born Saturday, March 23,

the twins and their mother are doing excellent. The shire being a "Limousin" has helped produce one "white" and one "red" calf. Not to be outdone, another cow, (being a bally), gave birth to twins Saturday, March 30. The pair of "bully" red bally calves and their mother are also doing well.

Cattleman's Seminar To Be Held

4-17-91
A Cattleman's Seminar will be held Tuesday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wasatch County Courthouse. The seminar is sponsored by the Wasatch County Extension Service and the Wasatch County Cattlemen.

According to Val Warnick, Extension Agent, the speakers will be Dr. DeeVon Bailey, Marketing Specialist, Utah State University will speak on "Marketing — Where, When, and How To Market Your Cattle For Maximum Profit". His talk will be helpful in all of your marketing decisions to help you maximize your income. The other speaker will be Dr. Craig Burrell, Area Livestock Specialist, USU Extension Service and he will talk on "Shorter Calving Season — The Advantages and How To Shorten It Using Synchronization". Right now, as most of you are finishing up your calving season, is a good time to make plans for next year.

According to LaRen Provost, County Cattleman's president, this should be a very worthwhile meeting and all cattlemen should attend. There is no cost for the seminar and everyone is welcome. For more information, call the Extension Office, 654-3211.

LOW-CHOLESTEROL CATTLE

■ **Criollos:** Beef industry hopes Spanish breed will answer health concerns, boost market.

By **Marjorie Cortez**
Deseret News business writer

4 Aug 1991

KAMAS — A Utah rancher is banking on prospects that the descendants of the cattle Christopher Columbus brought to the New World nearly 500 years ago may be the modern-day answer to producing low-fat beef.

Although small in stature, the Spanish cattle were sturdy enough to endure the grueling ship rides from Europe. And when the ships arrived in North America, the animals readily adapted to their new environment by eating brush and trees other cattle would snub.

Despite their hardy nature, the breed's offspring — known as criollo — fell out of favor. Cattlemen preferred the larger, meatier English breeds such as the Angus and Herefords and eventually, criollo (pronounced cree-oh-yo) were bred out of American beef cattle.

But then came the cholesterol scare. Health experts cautioned Americans to cut fatty foods from their diets — especially red meat.

The industry scrambled to find a way to cut the fat content of beef and at the same time remain competitive. Suddenly, cattlemen took new interest in criollo cattle.

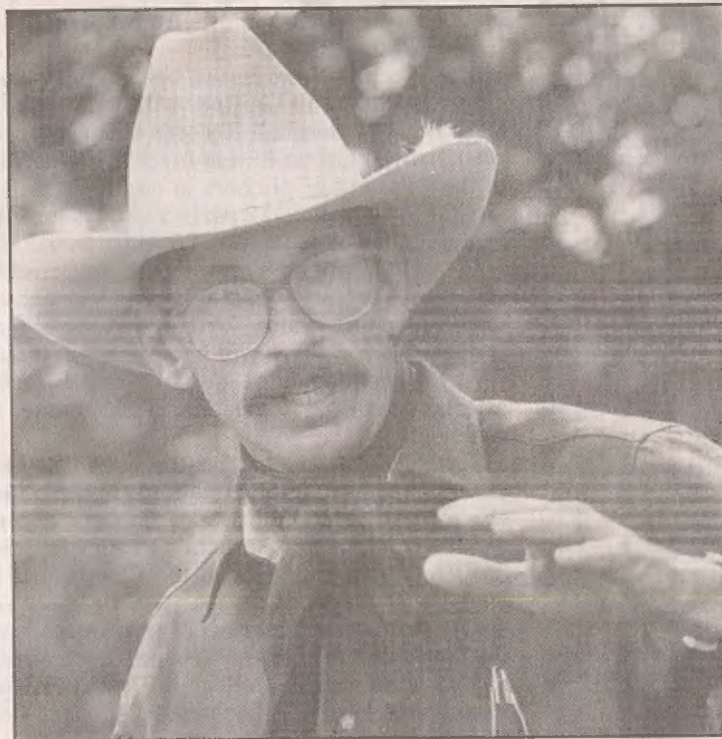
"They're small framed and don't carry a lot of meat. Therefore, they don't have a lot of body fat. Not having that body fat, they also don't have the cholesterol," said Ennis Gibbs, owner of the Double Bar A River Ranch near Kamas.

Criollo denotes animals born in the Americas of Spanish parentage. Until recently, the breed was extinct in the United States. "And it's virtually impossible to get breeding stock from Mexico," said Gibbs.

Gibbs, a Park City real estate broker turned cattle rancher, raises corriente cattle, a breed popular for rodeo roping contests. As such, he belongs to the North American Corriente Association, through which he first became aware of the criollo breed.

Mexican rancher Ildefonso Carlos Ortiz Lopez owns the only herd of criollos in North America. Also a member of the corriente association, Ortiz agreed to sell nine bulls to American ranches.

After several months of negotiations, country and western



PHOTOGRAPHY/KRISTAN JACOBSEN

Ennis Gibbs of Double Bar A River Ranch near Kamas is among U.S. ranchers recently importing criollo bulls.

recording artist Charlie Daniels, who raises corriente cattle on his Twin Pines Ranch in Lebanon, Texas, bought five of the bulls. Gibbs obtained two, and one each went to two other Texas ranchers.

None of the parties has revealed the sales price, but Gibbs said the bulls were "very, very expensive because you've only got one supplier."

So far, Ortiz has not sold any criollo cows.

Gibbs has bred his bulls, Tobasco and Tarasco, to 20 corriente cows on the family ranch near Kamas. "This 500 years of natural

Please see LEAN on D13



Tobasco is one of two criollo bulls that have been bred with corrientes.

Possible grazing fee increase worries cattlemen

By JANET HART
Herald Correspondent

The biggest challenge facing Utah cattlemen is the possibility of a grazing fee increase, said the first vice president of the National Cattlemen's Association.

Roger Stuber said if the price to graze cattle on public land increases, it could have a devastating effect on the small cattle communities in many areas of Utah and across the United States.

Stuber, who lives in North Dakota, was in Provo for the annual summer convention of the Utah

Cattlemen's Association. The increase he spoke of is the goal of a bill sponsored by Rep. Mike Synar, D-Okla., that has passed the House and is now before the Senate for consideration.

Synar's bill proposes that the grazing fee be raised from \$1.97 per animal per month to \$8.70, Stuber said. Such a significant increase could be enough to force smaller cattle businesses out of operation because they would lose their grazing land.

Glen Larsen, president of the Utah Cattlemen's Association, said there are approximately 15,-

000 ranches in Utah that depend on the public land for grazing. Although those ranches do own some private land, it is used to raise grain to feed the cattle during the winter.

Larsen estimates that nearly all Utah ranches would have their business cut by nearly three-fourths and many would be out of business.

Under the present fee if a cattleman puts his herds on public land for four months, he will spend \$7.88 per animal on grazing fees. However, he would spend \$34.80 per animal under the proposed increase.

Losses in the cattle industry could have negative effects on the economy of Utah Valley, Larsen said. Nearly 5,000 cattle leave Utah Valley each spring to graze on public lands and it is estimated that each animal can bring \$640 of income each year, totaling more than \$3 million.

If many of those cattlemen were forced out of business, the economic loss would be felt locally, he said.

Local cattlemen are also facing a drop in the price of finished cattle. Larsen said it was an-

nounced Friday that the price has dropped to 65 cents from 82 cents. The drop in price is apparently related to an oversupply in the market.

Stuber said the market drop is rather abrupt because for the past two years the cattle market has been doing fairly well. Apparently a large group of young cattle was sent to the feed lots at the same time instead of staggering the process and now they are ready for sale at the same time.

If the market drop lasts more than 90 days, the biggest effect will be on the production cost, Stuber said. However, the cattle business is trying several options to keep the cattle moving.

Stuber said the association is encouraging the Food and Drug Administration to buy beef for its programs and pushing restaurants and fast food establishments to feature beef. The meat export industry is being asked to promote can beef.

Other challenges for the industry include the implementation of the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species

Cut in grazing allotments likely to stand, Forest Service says

PAROWAN (AP) — A Forest Service official says plans to cut livestock grazing allotments on the Dixie National Forest likely will stand, despite opposition from southern Utah ranchers.

Under the plan, grazing on the forest would be reduced by up to 17 percent on several parcels.

Responding to complaints from local cattle interests, the Iron County Commission has written regional forester Hugh Thompson to express its displeasure with the plan.

Forest Service spokesman Ron Wilson said the commission letter received last month surprised Forest Service officials, since area cattlemen had been involved in every phase of DNF management

planning.

"We petitioned by letter public comment on this, and then we developed the issues," Wilson said at a recent commission meeting. "We want you to understand that the livestock permittees were involved in this process from the very beginning."

Wilson said cattlemen have filed a formal appeal to the regional forester, but he added that if the DNF assessment has been made properly, there is little chance the plan will be changed.

"We've put more public input and effort into this than anything we've ever done," Wilson said. "Based on all the information, I think this is a good, solid decision for managing land."

BLM ruminating on a plan to alter range-fee system

■ **Livestock:** Proposal would give ranchers credit for improvements to land.

By Joseph Bauman

Deseret News environmental specialist

The federal government may radically change its formula for calculating how much money ranchers pay to graze livestock on the public range. The new system would give them credit for improvements they make.

"We have a task force to look into the possibility of developing an alternative grazing fee," Michelle Ravniker, a Bureau of Land Management spokeswoman in Washington, D.C., told the Deseret News on Friday.

"They've met once, and they're meeting again. They should have something in June at some time, about whether it would be feasible to administer."

The task force will also evaluate whether the new fee structure would be a better alternative than, as she put it, "going through the politics" of adjusting the fee every year.

The possibility of the program, called an "incentive-based grazing fee," is discussed in the Grazing Fee Review and Evaluation Update, released to Congress on Thursday. The report was written by the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service, the Economic Research Service and the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

According to a highlights briefing paper sent to both houses of Congress along with the report, the Bush administration is committed to the current grazing fee formula. Under that formula, which is adjusted yearly, ranchers currently pay \$1.92 per animal unit month — the amount of forage a cow and a calf, or five sheep, eat

The upside of upgrades

Officials with the Bureau of Land Management are considering a proposal that would give ranchers credit against grazing fees for improvements they make on public lands where their livestock graze. Activities for which credits may be possible are:

- Range improvements
- Water and riparian (streamside) improvements
- Wildlife and recreation improvements
- Road maintenance
- Improved public access
- Maintaining good range condition
- Protecting cultural sites, that is, areas with historic or prehistoric artifacts

in one month.

The report hands environmentalists some powerful ammunition. It says that the grazing fee is based on adjustments to a base price of \$1.23 per AUM, set in 1966. But when the \$1.23 is adjusted for inflation, it would be \$2.95 in today's economy.

Don Waite, an economist with the BLM's Washington, D.C., office, told the Deseret News that if the \$2.95 base had been used in calculating the 1992 fee, ranchers would be paying \$3.24 per AUM.

The report says the new incentive-based fee proposal is in the conceptual stage. "Any changes to the current formula would be developed from the ground up, with

Please see GRAZING on A6

Wasatch County Report

County Bids For National Livestock Show

The Wasatch County Commission agreed to upgrade the fairgrounds during the next several years, including expanding the wash rack, putting new roofs on the horse stalls, and improving the power system, if the Brangus National Championship 1994 Jr. Heifer Show is scheduled in the county.

Glen Haven, St. George, asked for the improvements, explaining that participants in the five-day event generally require 100 hotel rooms per night and, therefore would significantly contribute to local business. He said he will have to raise \$25,000 for expenses, and the Heber Valley Chamber of Commerce has offered to help with arrangements if the county wins the contract. He also pointed out that the show would call attention to the Wasatch Fairgrounds. The bid will be submitted the last week in July.

The commissioners said the improvements Haven asked for need to be done anyway. They also noted that upgrading the facilities could bring other dairy shows to the county.

In other business, Sheriff Mike

Spanos told the commissioners a new OSHA regulation requires every emergency first responder to have a three-shot series of hepatitis-B shots, which the City-County Health Department will provide for \$87 per person. But he said the total cost for his department will be more than \$1,600. Since the regulation wasn't in effect when he set this year's budget, and he doesn't have that much money available, he asked for a line item fund transfer to cover the shots. The commissioners informally gave their approval, and will transfer the money when they know the exact amount needed.

Spanos also reported there already have been 480 more man-days

spent in the jail than during all of last year. He explained a man-day includes each time a person is booked into jail, even if he is released in an hour, plus every day spent in the facility. He said he already has spent \$14,000 on food for the prisoners, which has used up most of this year's food budget. Therefore, he said he also will need some funds to be transferred to cover food for the rest of the year.

Fairground change to lure livestock show

6-16-92
By SONNI SCHWINN
Herald Correspondent

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Cattlemen schedule annual convention

11-22-92
SALT LAKE CITY — The 74th annual convention of Utah Cattlemen and Utah CattleWomen is scheduled Dec. 9, 10 and 1 at the Red Lion Hotel in Salt Lake City.

Wednesday's session will begin with an extended board meeting for all county presidents, committee chairmen and vice chairmen, past presidents and area directors. A noon leadership luncheon is planned, followed by concurrent sessions for past presidents, beef cattle task force, beef promotion and consumer relations, public lands, and animal welfare assurance.

A bull sale show and judging is planned at 2 p.m., with the Cattlemen's Classic Bull Sale Social and All Breeds Sale at 6 p.m.

Thursday will begin with a State Brand Board breakfast at 7 a.m.

followed by a trade show. A joint meeting with the Utah Woolgrowers and Society of Range Management is planned at 8 a.m., followed by committee meetings. Additional committee meetings will be conducted in the afternoon on animal damage control; animal health; private lands; brand and theft; marketing, and grading and inspection. Utah CattleWomen and Woolgrowers Auxiliary will conduct a social in the afternoon.

Annual Livestockmen's Ball is scheduled in the evening.

Friday's general session will feature Roger Stuber, National Cattlemen's Association president-elect, and Eleanor Jones, ANCW first vice president.

The National Cattlemen's Association convention is scheduled Jan. 27-30 in Phoenix, Ariz.

Federal study of belching bovines draws lots of cackles

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — While some people think it's a gas, researchers studying bovine belches want everyone to know that's the point: gas.

"It has been estimated that a single cow produces 100 to 200 liters of methane a day," said Brian Lamb, an associate professor at Washington State University's Laboratory for Atmospheric Research.

"That may not sound like much, but multiply that by the estimated 1.2 billion cattle in the world and you begin to get some idea of the magnitude."

Lamb, fellow atmospheric chemist Hal Westberg and Kris Johnson, an animal sciences associate professor, are conducting a three-year, \$300,000 study for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to determine how much methane gas enters the atmosphere when cows burp.

This has led to some chortling among colleagues and in the media, but Westberg and Lamb insist their research is important to understanding what causes the Earth-warming greenhouse effect.

Carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels is thought to be the biggest contributor among gases that trap heat. The concentration of methane in the atmosphere is increasing at about 1 percent a year.

Natural wetlands and rice paddies each produce about 20 percent of the total atmospheric "budget" of the colorless gas. Ruminant, or cud-chewing, animals are thought to produce about 15 percent.



AP photo

Washington State professor Kris Johnson adjusts a device that measures how much methane gas cows produce.